Assessment in Bethnal-green.—At a recent petty sessions to decide on objections to rates assessed by the surveyor, Mr. Paine, the case of Messrs. Truman and Hanbury, the brewers, was first tried. They objected to an increase from 1,150*l.* to 1,750*l.* on their brewery and stabling in the parish. The bulk of their premises are in the parish of Spitalfields, and stabling forms the most part of those in Bethnal-green, but that, the company's solicitor argued, could scarcely be rated in the same way as houses, inasmuch as the inhabitants were not likely to become chargeable to the parish. The frontage in the parish was 300 feet by 250 deep, and contained a cooperage and storehouse besides. Mr. Paine argued in defence, that the Act compelled him to regard this property not merely as stabling, but as a valuable adjunct to the brewery. There was stabling for 127 horses, which would pine and die in ordinary stables. The premises also contained a dwelling-house, and various other buildings, besides twelve vats, each said to be capable of holding a party of 100 seated at dinner. The area of the cooperage was 42,000 feet, and paved with granite. Mr. Parnell said that he never heard of paving being rated; and as for the vats, they were not fixtures, and were actually moved on some occasions. Details were then gone into, after which the court decided that 15*s.* per foot for frontage in Brick-lane, and 7*s.* for the others was too high, 7*s.* and 5*s.* being sufficient. The vats also being moveable, must be exempted. As for the other parts of the case, "seeing that we are bound," said the magistrate, "to rate machinery and plant, which was never done in this parish before, and that we must look at the value of these stables in connection with the important purposes to which they are applied, we consider it all proved." 150*l.* were then deducted on vats and land, and the assessment confirmed at 1,600*l.* Mr. Parnell intimated that his clients would doubtless carry the case before another tribunal.——Mr. C. Eagle, of Hackney-road, objected that the rating of his (public) house had been increased from 32*l.* to 45*l.* His rent was 40*l.*, on a lease with twenty-two years to run. Declined to say what premium he paid: rate confirmed.

Electro-Telegraphic Progress.—The telegraph at the Post-office is now in full operation, and despatches can be transmitted to Alnwick, Ambergate, Broxbourne, Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Barnsley, Beverley, Bridlington, Bradford, Berwick-on-Tweed, Bishopstoke, Chelmsford, Colchester, Cambridge, Chesterfield, Darlington, Derby, Dunbar, Durham, Ely, Edinburgh, Gloucester, Gosport, Glasgow, Hertford, Hull, Halifax, Ipswich, Lincoln, Loughborough, Leicester, Lowestoffe, Leeds, Liverpool, Leith, March, Milton, Manchester, Malton, Morpeth, Newmarket, Newark, Nottingham, Norwich, Northallerton, Newcastle, Normanton, Peterborough, Romford, Rugby, Rotherham, Rochdale, Slough, Stortford, St. Ives, Stamford, Sheffield, Selby, Skipton, Scarborough, Sunderland, South Shields, Southampton, Thetford, Tamworth, Todmorden, Thirsk, Witham, Wisbeach, Worcester, Wakefield, Ware, York, and Yarmouth. The rate of charge for twenty words is 1*d.* per mile for first 50 miles, ½*d.* per mile for second 50 miles, and ¼*d.* per mile for any distance beyond 100 miles.——A proposal for carrying out the telegraph in British India, it is said, is under consideration by the East-India Company.

The Trafalgar-square Wells.—Workmen have been engaged in making canals in the ground straight along from the Spring-garden entrance to the park to the Storey's-gate entrance, for the purpose of laying down water-pipes, which are to convey the Trafalgar spring-water to Buckingham Palace. There is also a proposition for carrying the pipes up Constitution-hill across Knightsbridge into Hyde-park, to throw some thousands of gallons of pure water into the Serpentine. Along the line of pipes several water-pumps are to be erected for watering the streets.

Metal Cylinders cast without Cores.—A patent has been granted to Mr. A. Shanks, of Robert-street, Adelphi, engineer, for casting pipes, cylinders, and spherical vessels in moulds, by means of centrifugal force,—the mould being made to revolve on its axis by machinery, while the molten metal within adheres to its sides.

State of the Streets of Bristol.—With such intelligent and active authorities as we know Bristol has, it seems surprising that the surface of the streets should be allowed to remain in the miserably dirty state in which it is. The wind was blowing freshly as we walked through the "ancient city" on Saturday last, and the air at every fresh gust was filled with dust and triturated dung, to the great injury of the eyes, the temper, and the health of the busy crowd which filled both paths and roads. Good scavenging would, of course, cost money, but if some of the clear heads in the common council will quietly calculate the amount of injury done to the goods of the shopkeepers by this unnecessary dirt, the extra "washing and ironing" entailed on all the inhabitants, to say nothing of the effect on the general health (and illness and death are very costly matters), they will find that some thousands a-year would not pay the loss caused by the want of proper attention to the surface of the streets. This remark applies to many other places besides Bristol.

A Sanitary Commission for every Housekeeper.*—Some evening *soon*, provide yourself with a roll of brown paper, and visit every cellar sough in your dwelling. Light the roll of brown paper, and then extinguish the light, so as to leave only the smoking embers; apply the paper to the holes of the grid, and the direction of the smoke will tell you if you have a return draught from the drain. If the smoke is blown aside, get a sink-trap at once. This will be safer and cheaper than pouring any disinfecting fluid down your soughs. Look to the slop-stone pipe, and if it terminates in a sough, have a bell-trap put in the stone. Fever often enters by this waste pipe. The seeds of bowel complaints, dysentery, head-aches, enter many a house by a cellar sough, or a slop-stone pipe; the more readily if the house fires are connected with good drawing chimneys. The next visit of inspection may be to the bed-rooms; and when you enter, call to mind that though eye and limb may slumber, the heart and lungs know no rest. If eight hours be spent in the bedroom, the lungs have opened and closed 10,000 times during that repose, and the air which passes out is not only unfit to be breathed again, but contaminates the general air of the room; then remember a reckoning is due for the perspiration. Now inquire in what way you have aided the efforts of the lungs and the skin to purify the blood, and build up the waste of the day, and see whether you have not made a "famine of pure air." Remove the fire-board, take away the listing which has been tacked over the crevices of the windnw, and see that the joiner makes a way for the air to come in over the door (if you will sleep with it fully closed), and there is a corner in every room where the warmed and vitiated air may be led out. Bathing and sponging are excellent, but pure air in a bedroom is a *sine qua non* in this cholera time.

Levels of London.—Mr. Wyld, of the Strand, has published a map of London, on which are marked in red figures the levels taken by order of the Commissioners of Sewers for the information of those who contemplate submitting plans for the drainage of the metropolis. The altitudes are given in feet "above the approximate mean water at Liverpool, being 12½ feet below Trinity high-water mark."

Masons' Provident Institution.—Mr. Tite, F.R.S., has kindly consented to become president of the above institution, in the room of the late Alderman John Johnson. The objects of the institution are the erection of almshouses, and provision of a pension fund for decayed members of the trade, their widows and orphans, or for those who may become disabled by accident or infirmity.

Fire-proof Floors.—Messrs. Clarke and Motley, among other inventions, have patented what they think an improvement in the construction of floors of buildings fire-proof, on an economical plan, "which is not only applicable to new erections, but may be applied to existing buildings, such as warehouses, manufactories, mills, &c., very economically—viz., at not exceeding from 5*d.* to 9*d.* per superficial foot—so that a floor of 50 feet long and 20 feet wide may be rendered fire-proof for about 30*l.*"

* From a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*.

Cirencester Roman Pavement.—The newly-discovered pavement in the old town of Cirencester, the site of ancient Corinium, already mentioned by us, measures 25 feet square, and exhibits *nine circles* of nearly 5 feet diameter each. They contain (according to our correspondent) bold and well-executed heads of Ceres and Flora, and exceedingly spirited representations of Actæon and his dogs, and of Silenus riding on his ass.

Punctuality to Time by Rail enforced.—An Exeter solicitor, detained for an hour at the Starcross station on the South Devon line, was lately awarded 10*s.* damages by a jury, on the ground that an hour's delay in the arrival of a train, without good excuse, was actionable under the contract to carry passengers at a certain time, implied in the company's time-table.

On the Duration of Wood, and Means of Prolonging it.—The following are the results of experiments made with great care and patience by Mr. G. S. Hartig:—Pieces of wood of various kinds 2 5-8th inches square, were buried about an inch below the surface of the ground, and they decayed in the following order:—The lime, American birch, alder, and the trembling-leaved poplar, in three years; the common willow, horse-chesnut, and plane, in four years; the maple, red beech, and common birch, in five years; the elm, ash, hornbeam, and Lombardy poplar, in six years; the robinia, oak, Scotch fir, Weymouth pine, and silver fir, were only decayed to the depth of half an inch in seven years; the larch, common juniper, red cedar (*juniperus virginiana*), and arbor-vitæ, at the end of the last-mentioned period, remained uninjured. The duration of the respective woods depends greatly on their age and quality; specimens from young trees decaying much quicker than those from sound old trees; and, when well seasoned, they last much longer than when buried in an unseasoned state. In experiments with the woods cut into thin boards, decay proceeded in the following order, commencing with the most perishable order:—The plane, horse-chesnut, poplar, American birch, red beech, hornbeam, alder, ash, maple, silver fir, Scotch fir, elm, Weymouth pine, larch, robinia, or locust oak. It has been proved, by recent experiments, that the best mode of prolonging the duration of wood is to char it, and then paint it over with three or four coats of pitch. But simply charring the wood was of very little utility, as were also saturations with various salts, acids, &c.—*Revue Horticole.*

Novel Building Materials.—The erection of a tenement in the Low Calton, Edinburgh, in which fire-brick alone is employed as the building material, instead of stone, has excited some interest among the inhabitants in that locality. The building, of which one story is already completed, is to consist of three flats, and the fire-brick is used in blocks of the size and appearance of hewn stone. The basement story is designed for a warehouse, the exterior being in the form of shops, and the front exhibits the elegance and finish of polished ashlar. The blocks are of large size, being upon an average 2 feet in length by 14 inches deep; but those employed in the construction of the other parts of the building are smaller, ranging from 18 to 20 inches long by 6½ to 9 inches square. The principal advantage in the use of fire-brick is its resistance to fire and damp, but the expense, we believe, is greater than stone, from the heavy duty upon bricks. The building, however, will have a light and clean appearance, and the experiment is viewed with some interest.—*Edinburgh Weekly Register.*

TENDERS.

For the first portion of the North Surrey Industrial School, Penge, Mr. Lee, architect, opened on the 26th inst., in the presence of the builders:—

Barrett	£14,895
George Todd	14,879
George Myers	13,710
Mark Patrick	13,440
Nicholson and Son	13,291
John Glenn	12,814
Jas. Barr	12,695
Thos. Burton	12,679
Jno. Wilson	12,679
Wm. Trego	12,669
Wm. Higgs	12,178
Edw. Carter	11,967
Carter and Ellis	11,957
J. T. Taylor	11,797

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